

During a recent trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories, I saw how both sides deeply yearn for peace. And I saw firsthand how they need the United States to do all it can to help them make peace.

The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act will make this task enormously difficult.

The harsh restrictions, and cutting off contacts with moderate Palestinians, will severely complicate our ability to assume an active role in helping both sides resolve the conflict.

If we cannot engage with moderates, and those trying to develop the Palestinian economy and build civil society, we forfeit our ability to nurture and strengthen the positive elements in Palestine.

The President and State Department must have the utmost flexibility to help moderate Palestinians, to quickly get economic and humanitarian aid to places that need it, like hospitals and health clinics, and helps prevent the resumption of terrorism.

We need to isolate and weaken Hamas, and hopefully their tenure at the head of the PA will be a short one. But if we cannot distinguish between Hamas and the majority of the Palestinian people, we cannot possibly expect to have a role in creating what comes next.

Israelis and Palestinians realize that in the end, their fates are tied. It's time to help the majorities on both sides reach their mutual goal—a peaceful two-state solution—rather than standing in the way by punishing one side.

While the bill has been pulled from the calendar, that's only temporary. I urge the majority to leave it off the table indefinitely.

Give our State Department an opportunity to nurture peace, or we will surely have to ask our military to counter more terrorism.

CONGRATULATING DENVER HARBOR SENIOR CITIZENS, INC. ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Denver Harbor Senior Citizens, Inc. on twenty-five years of service to the senior citizens of Denver Harbor, Texas. Since its founding in June of 1980, Denver Harbor Senior Citizens has provided an outlet for seniors in our area to get together on a regular basis, socialize, and maintain meaningful friendships.

On any given weekday, the Denver Harbor Recreation Complex is visited by a large group of active senior citizens. Many gather in groups to play dominoes, bingo, or Loteria, a traditional Mexican game. While the games often bring out some good-natured competition among the players, everyone enjoys the camaraderie and laughter that the group activities provide.

Without doubt, Denver Harbor Senior Citizens, Inc. is one of the most active senior centers in Harris County. In addition to the programs provided in the new and beautiful Denver Harbor Recreation Complex, the group sponsors numerous senior outings and trips to Austin and other areas within the State of Texas, where the members can recall the Texas history lessons we all learned as schoolchildren.

Denver Harbor Senior Citizens also provides hot meals for its members, an invaluable service ensuring that senior citizens have well-balanced meals. As we age, the importance of nutrition cannot be underestimated and is critical to our good health. This group has taken that principle to heart and has put in place the benefits and services that keep our senior citizens active and healthy—in body, mind and spirit.

On May 19, 2006, Denver Harbor Senior Citizens will officially celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary with a dinner reception and dance at the Denver Harbor Recreation Complex.

I would like to extend to this group my heartfelt congratulations and thanks for twenty-five years of dedication to Denver Harbor's senior citizens and wish them all the best in the future.

HONORING HARRY "BUS" YOURELL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry "Bus" Yourell of Oak Lawn, Illinois, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District who is retiring after a long and distinguished career in the private and public sector.

Mr. Yourell served admirably in the United States Marine Corps during World War II earning the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Asiatic Pacific Medal with three stars, and the Presidential Unit Citation Award.

Born on February 19, 1919, in Hammond, Indiana, Yourell moved to Oak Lawn in 1956. He raised three children with his wife and established a popular Oak Lawn restaurant named "Bus' Drive-in" and was engaged in the insurance brokerage business.

Harry "Bus" Yourell served with excellence in community and civic affairs by participating in the Heart Fund, the Boy Scouts, the Lions Club, the Elks Club, the Holy Name Society, Rotary, American Legion Post 757, VFW Post 5220, and Catholic War Veterans.

He is a loyal and active Democrat who served his party as President of the Worth Township Regular Democrats for three years, was elected delegate to the 1964 State Nomination Convention, was six times elected Democratic Committeeman of Worth Township, was a member of the Cook County Democratic Central Committee, and was elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1968.

Yourell served nine terms as an elected member of the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served as Chairman of the Counties and Townships Committee, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Administrative Procedures, Chairman of the Election Laws Commission, Chairman of the County Problems Commission, and was a member of the Executive Committee, the Cities and Villages Committee, the Financing of Education Commission, and the C-Selm Pollution Control Commission.

As an Illinois State Representative was chief sponsor of bills to raise the drinking age to 21 and to create the Joint Committee on Administrative Procedures; he also sponsored legisla-

tion creating one of the toughest narcotic bails in the nation, banning look-alike drugs, and the consolidated election law.

Citizens of our state who serve with distinction deserve to be recognized and honored for their accomplishments; therefore, it is my honor to recognize Harry "Bus" Yourell for his dedication and service to his family, friends, community, and country. I wish him all the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHOENIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring attention to the 135th Anniversary of the Phoenix Elementary School District #1, which is in the heart of my district and celebrates its 135th birthday on May 15. Steeped in heritage and tradition, the district is in the heart of Phoenix and dedicated to the total development of every kindergarten through eighth grade student enrolled by setting high expectations for each child and fostering academic leadership. The district has demonstrated its ability to adapt to the times while keeping students needs' at the forefront.

The history of Phoenix Elementary School District #1 began in 1871, when it was created by the Arizona Legislative Assembly, acting upon a school bill presented by Arizona's third governor, Anson P. K. Safford. At the time, this free public school system had neither a schoolhouse, books or teachers. Twenty students attended class in the county courthouse.

By 1873, a one room adobe structure, named "Little Adobe," had been built with public funds, and Mr. W.A. Glover was hired to teach for \$100 per month. The school was 600-square feet and located in what is now downtown Phoenix. The District was formed 10 years before the city of Phoenix was even incorporated.

Just after it began operations, schools were closed from 1883 until 1885 due to a smallpox epidemic. Student enrollment was 374. By 1913, the district had expanded to nine schools and 4,860 students. In 1920, Kenilworth School opened, offering great relief to the overcrowded district. Sens. Barry Goldwater and Paul Fannin enrolled in Kenilworth that year. In 1957, a new school was named after the only living Arizonan to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor: Silvestre Herrera. Early in the 1960s the exodus from city to suburbs began in earnest. Inner-city dwellers were on a modest socio-economic level, thus qualifying the district for federal funding including support for both Title I and Title II. The decade began with 25 schools and burgeoning classes. A Spanish language program also was added at Heard and Grand Avenue schools. The late 1960s brought on concerns about the lack of Mexican-Americans working in the district. Soon, Mr. Louis P. Rodriguez was named principal of Grant School and Mr. Adam Diaz was declared the elected Trustee of the Board.

From 1970 on, the District's enrollment began to show a steady decline due to commercial rezoning of property. Despite parent